AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 11, 3rd full paragraph:

Additional "virtual" drivers are added which, to the operating system, appear to provide access to an input/output (I/O) bus, allowing data to be written to the bus. In fact, the virtual bus driver [[2014]] uses memory as a communications medium; it exports some private memory (for input data) and imports memory exported by other systems (for output data). In this way, the operating system 201 (or an application running on the operating system) can pass data to another operating system (or application running on it) as if they were two operating systems running on separate machines connected by a real I/O bus.

Page 12, 1st full paragraph:

Native drivers for shared system devices are replaced by new drivers [[2028]] dealing with devices which have been virtualized by the hardware resource dispatcher (interrupt controller, I/O bus bridges, the system timer and the real time clock). These drivers execute a call to virtual device handlers 416 of the hardware resource dispatcher in order to perform some operations on a respective device of the computer 100. Each such virtual device handler 416 of the hardware resource dispatcher is paired with a "peer" driver routine in the critical operating system, which is arranged to directly interact with the system device. Thus, a call to a virtual device handler is relayed up to a peer driver in the critical system for that virtualized device, in order to make real device access. As in step 306, read and write drivers for the virtual I/O bus are provided, to allow inter-operating system communications.

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